

NISC Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Engagement with federal and non-federal stakeholders is particularly important to the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) as efforts to address invasive species require a broad range of coordination and cooperation efforts. As invasive species do not respect jurisdictional lines, boundaries or borders, addressing these threats requires engagement with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. Additionally, the private sector, environmental groups, academia, the general public, and other stakeholders have critical expertise, insights, and roles in addressing invasive species.

The stakeholder engagement strategy below includes four broad strategies to ensure that NISC activities and planning are informed by an array of non-federal perspectives and products are communicated to relevant stakeholders. Specific outputs for each of these strategies will be determined on an annual basis in conjunction with the development and implementation of the NISC Work Plan. While many of these activities focus on particular stakeholder groups, NISC values a wide range of input. NISC therefore welcomes input from the broader public, which NISC staff will also take into consideration.

Objective

NISC activities and planning are informed by a broad array of non-federal constituencies regarding needs, challenges, and opportunities to address invasive species and their impacts. NISC staff help foster connections between member agencies and relevant stakeholders and serve as a conduit for transmitting information and responding to inquiries about NISC-related activities.

Strategies

- A. Work Plan Activities:** During the development and implementation of Annual Work Plans, NISC staff and member agencies will work with key non-federal stakeholder groups and experts relevant to the selected thematic priority activities. The task teams (or other implementing groups) for each of those priorities will identify steps for engagement and timelines as appropriate to the activity.
- B. Mechanisms for Ongoing Input:** NISC staff and agencies will identify opportunities for regular engagement with stakeholders to solicit information and views on issues including general NISC planning and priorities, as well as more specific priorities. These could take the form of public listening sessions, roundtables with NISC staff and its member agencies, webinars, and/or Federal Register notices requesting input. These could also be organized in conjunction with major events that gather interested stakeholders, such as National Invasive Species Awareness Week.
- C. Targeted Stakeholder Engagement:** NISC will identify additional opportunities for engagement with non-federal stakeholders that relate to targeted priorities or constituencies as they arise. This could include participation in major conferences (e.g., the North American Invasive Species Management Association, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Plant Board, Ecological Society of America), meetings with associations and other key groups (e.g., National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, governors' associations), or engagement with academia and other educational efforts. NISC staff and member agency representatives could speak about NISC and its

priorities at such events. As appropriate, they will also liaise with Congressional representatives and provide relevant information upon request. NISC staff will collate a key list of organizational contacts and meetings to help identify these opportunities. Additionally, as time and resources allow NISC staff will respond to inquiries from stakeholders and the general public and as appropriate work with other member agencies to facilitate those responses.

- D. Outreach Materials:** NISC staff will maintain a series of informational materials for educating and engaging stakeholders about NISC and its activities. These can include the website, fact sheets, FAQs, stock PowerPoint Slides, and other materials as needed.

Note: all non-federal engagement actions will be conducted in line with relevant laws and policies (e.g., Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, Paperwork Reduction Act, Federal Advisory Committee Act).